

40 Years



**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**

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# **NJMC NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Bestselling Author Dava Sobel to Speak at NJMC**

**LYNDHURST, N.J.** – Science writer Dava Sobel, the bestselling author of “Galileo’s Daughter,” will give a talk and sign books at 1 p.m. on March 14 at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission’s (NJMC) Meadowlands Environment Center.

Sobel will speak about her books and the International Year of Astronomy 2009, a year-long celebration marking 400 years since Galileo first pointed his telescope toward the stars. The event is part of the NJMC’s 40th Anniversary celebration.

“We are thrilled and honored to have Dava Sobel speak at the Meadowlands Environment Center,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “She is an exceptional writer whose subject matter fits perfectly with our efforts to promote science education.”

Sobel is best-known for her book “Galileo’s Daughter,” which explores the relationship between the astronomer and his oldest child. The book is based on 124 surviving letters to Galileo from his daughter, Sister Maria Celeste. Published in 1999, “Galileo’s Daughter” spent five weeks at Number 1 on the New York Times non-fiction Bestseller List, won the 1999 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for science and technology, a 2000 Christopher Award, and was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in biography.

Sobel’s other works include “The Planets” and the New York Times Bestseller “Longitude,” about an 18<sup>th</sup> century clockmaker who solved a great scientific mystery by inventing a device to measure longitude. The book was adapted into a television drama.

Tickets for the Dava Sobel program are \$5, \$4 for MEC members. Preregistration is required at [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec). For more information, call 201-460-8300.

For listings of additional 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, and information on how to participate in the NJMC’s Oral History Project, visit the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section of our Web site at [www.njmeadowlands.gov/anniversary/intro.html](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/anniversary/intro.html).

Area residents can study and see the stars up-close in their own backyard at the NJMC's William D. McDowell Observatory. The observatory, which opened in 2008, features a state-of-the-art telescope with a 20-inch lens. The McDowell Observatory is open to the public on Monday and Wednesday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. Monthly astronomy classes are offered on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. For more information, call 201-460-8300 or visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec).

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